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Period 9/10

Although technology is used to makes things a lot more easily and efficient for humans it does present a lot of negatives. Humans rely of technology for a lot of things, such as getting information, accomplishing things, and also as a way of communication. People think of technology as the future of human civilization. Every thing we do today technology plays a role in it. So with it making things much easier and efficient what is so wrong with technology? Although it is not as noticeable as greenhouse gases and pollution, technology is destroying the environment. All of the things that cause the destroying of the environment all go back to technology. Technology is the base of all the destruction. If you think about it burning fossil fuels in power plants emits harmful gases in the air and kills the ozone and what not. But technology it’s self is the one to blame. Those harmful gases wouldn’t go in the air if the technology wouldn’t run the plant. Technology doesn’t only present negatives it provides a lot of positives too. Technology provides a lot of help with cutting back pollution and other environmental problems. Scientists say that technology could either save or destroy our civilization. [[1]](#footnote-0) So with our technology getting more advanced each year it can either destroy us or help us. Unlike the other section of this term paper, mine deals with the environmental concerns that technology is presenting. I will explain pros and cons and view both sides of this topic. Technology is very helpful for everyone and makes stuff a lot easier of us. But more importantly is the environment. Without the environment we cannot survive with technology or without.

It started going down hill once we hit the industrial revolution. Even though it looked like industries were striving with success, it was actually just the start of the destruction. Even though technology didn’t exist back then, there were still harmful materials present that hurt the environment. The industries used fossil fuels to power their plants back in the day, which caused pollution to the environment. We still use a lot of fossil fuels today, which hasn’t got any better for us, but something that we have now that they didn’t have back in the industrial revolution was technology. With modern technology advancing we can build stronger and more powerful machines. Even though building these new powerful machines to run big industries benefits the economy, its not doing the same for our environment. Industries today ran by technology cause noise pollution, air pollution, and water pollution. [[2]](#footnote-1)

Weapons today are very powerful and destructive caused by the technology that make them. Using technology to create, invent and upgrade our weapons today has took a great toll on our environment. When we create new weapons they have to be tested at a certain place. Testing these weapons is very bad for the environment and the surrounding places. Not only destroying the land itself, but it could also release un-healthy gas into the environment destroying trees and killing the ozone. Yes, we need weapons to defend our country and to go to war with, but testing them on the environment is not good.

With us, humans, using technology for every thing now a days we have found a way that it can be negative. Traffic companies are using technology to put in more streetlights and more roads. More roads are good right? Less traffic? No more roads mean more cars.[[3]](#footnote-2) And we all know that the cars we use today cause a lot of pollution that rip up our ozone. A large study has found that up to one half of all plants and animals species on dry land could face extinction by the year 2050 due to global warming.[[4]](#footnote-3) So with all the cars on the roads today, global warming keeps getting worse.

Farming today is almost all run by technology. Farmers use GPS systems to run there tractors and they use it to fertilize there crops. Technology makes it easier and more efficient for the farmers to fertilize. With technology doing most of the work now, farmers want to fertilize more so their fields are doing well. Them wanting to fertilize all the time is very harmful to the environment. Nitrogen and Phosphorus make up the fertilizer, and once those chemicals get in run-off water they enter our water systems. They destroy a lot of plant like and pollute our water. Also dealing with fertilizers are golf courses. Technology on golf courses has risen greatly in the past decade. Greens keepers of a course can sit at their home and control water, and fertilizing. Technology makes it so easy these days to run and control various things. With a push of a button you can send harmful elements into our water systems, which can eventfully destroy our drinking water.

Printing companies use large machines and technology to print out their stories. These companies are making a surplus of papers that are going straight to the garbage can. Yes, a lot of people recycle but there are still people out there today that don’t. Also recycling doesn’t change the fact that the trees have already been cut down. Recycling paper for one days worth of the New York Times (Sunday Edition) would save 75,000 trees.[[5]](#footnote-4) Another stat I read was that a one years prescription to the New York times weighs over 500 hundred pounds.[[6]](#footnote-5) Surely all of those 500 pounds don’t reach the trashcan, which then leads to pollution. Technology makes production so easy and efficient it’s destroying our environment very fast. For instance one hundred billion plastic bags are thrown away each year. That’s less than one percent finding their way to the trashcan according to the Worldwatch Institute. [[7]](#footnote-6) What happens to all the other plastic bags? They end up in our woods, streets and beaches. Not to mention one billion animals a year dying from plastic digestion. We can’t kill of one billion animals a year, considering each animal has a job in their ecosystem they must perform for that ecosystem to survive.

Every day technology is being used. Everyday people get tasks done quicker and easier due to technology. Technology is used everyday for almost everything us humans do. We’ve developed technology into more than just computers and MP3 players. It’s now the main concern with our economy and such. With technology being so efficient we mass-produce products that end up destroying our environment. It makes things so easy these days that people can just push a button and something will happen. If it’s so easy they’re going to do it all the time, which they do. So even though technology makes everything so much more easier and efficient, everyday it is destroying the environment whether you notice it of not.

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2. "Assessing the Impact of Technology on the Environment." *Associated Content - Associatedcontent.com*. Web. 18 May 2010. <http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/529905/assessing\_the\_impact\_of\_technology.htm [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. "Negative Effects of Modern Day Technology." *Free Articles Directory | Submit Articles - ArticlesBase.com*. Web. 19 May 2010. <http://www.articlesbase.com/science-articles/negative-effects-of-modern-day-technology-1106666.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. "ScienceDirect - Technology in Society : Considering the long-term survival of the human race." *ScienceDirect - Home*. Web. 27 Oct. 2009. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?\_ob=ArticleURL&\_udi=B6V80-3X52WMY-2&\_user=10&\_rdoc=1&\_fmt=&\_orig=search&\_sort=d&\_docanchor=&view=c&\_searchStrId=1066452121&\_rerunOrigin=google&\_acct=C000050221&\_version=1&\_urlVersion=0&\_userid=10&md5=c756e662840489396d935fcba0379505>. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
5. 20 Gut-Wrenching Statistics [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
6. "20 Gut-Wrenching Statistics About the Destruction of the Planet and those Living Upon It :." *TreeHugger*. Web. 27 Oct. 2009. <http://www.treehugger.com/files/2009/04/20-gut-wrenching-statistics-about-the-destruction-of-the-environment.php> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
7. 20 Gut-Wrenching Statistics [↑](#footnote-ref-6)